



SCHWAB FOUNDATION
FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

DIALOGUE
DELHI

Winter Camp
January 2023

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Schwab Foundation
for Social Entrepreneurship

Social Innovation in Action

2025 Awardees and Impact Report



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Cover Image Credit: Chris Heeney/Schwab Foundation

About us

The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship provides a platform for social entrepreneurs and innovators to drive systemic change, and influence policy and stakeholders for transformative solutions.



In partnership with the World Economic Forum, the Schwab Foundation is the foremost global community of pioneering social entrepreneurs and innovators driving systemic change. Established by co-founders Hilde and Klaus Schwab in 1998, the Foundation's ambition is to support social entrepreneurs and innovators from across the world in tackling complex challenges that drive inequality and exclusion, helping them to create real change for people and the planet. As the Foundation works towards this ambition with its partners and community of social entrepreneurs and innovators, it aims to:

- Diffuse, adopt and scale outstanding models of social innovation across sectors, increasing their impact and deepening their value.
- Play systemic roles for creating transformative change in novel ways, from unlocking new financing solutions and influencing policy decisions to shaping the mindsets of key stakeholders and working to shift power and resources to the people.
- Mobilize and develop the social innovation ecosystem, including diverse actors, to collectively transform society.

The Schwab Foundation's initiatives to support and mainstream social innovation have grown significantly over the past year. In addition to a new cohort of leading and highly impactful social entrepreneurs and innovators, the Foundation team has intensified its engagements with the social innovation ecosystem as well as the private and public sectors. Through the Schwab Foundation's Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship, it now connects actors representing over 100,000 social entrepreneurs with corporations, investors, philanthropists, governments, researchers, the media and industry.

Together with its community and partners, the Schwab Foundation backs sustainable, inclusive solutions that are more likely to be systemic in nature, and empower millions of excluded, vulnerable and low-income groups to address social and environmental challenges, both local and global.

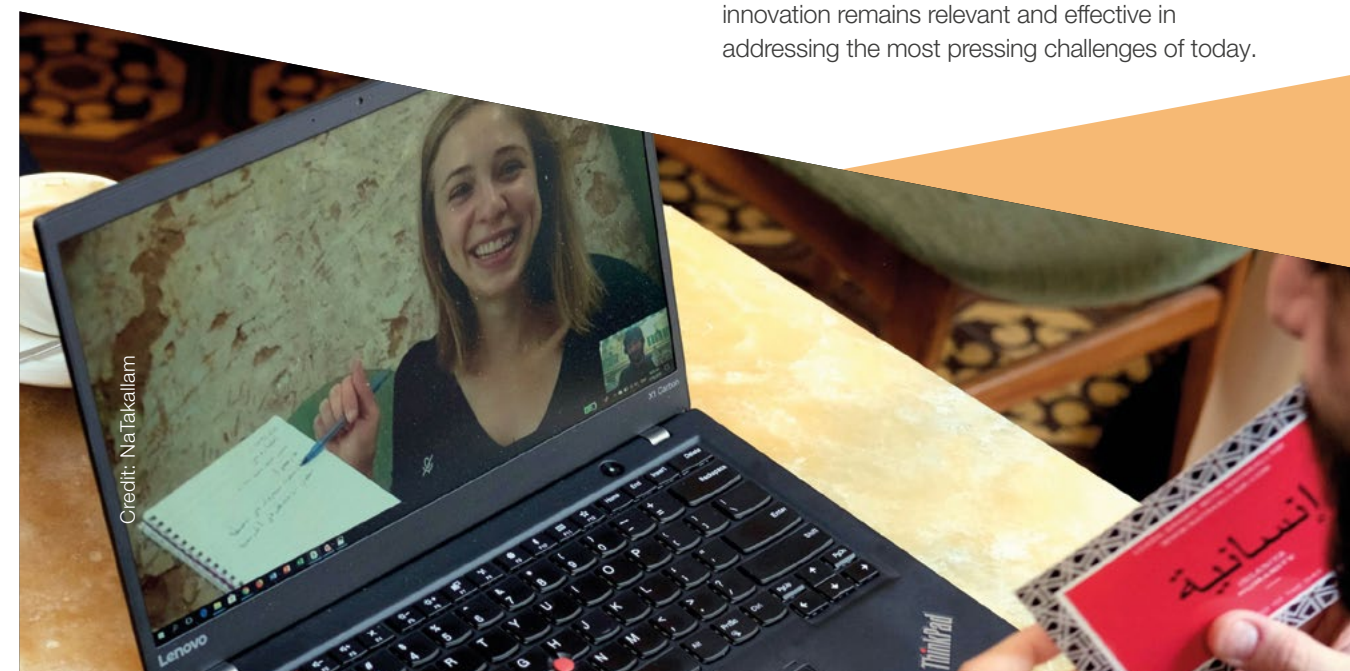
The Schwab Foundation focuses on four areas of work:

1 Building a community of social innovation leaders: By showcasing leading social innovation models to key decision-makers in both business and government, the Foundation fosters an environment where successful strategies can be scaled and replicated. This recognition not only honours the achievements of these social entrepreneurs and innovators but also amplifies their influence, inspiring others to adopt and support innovative solutions for a better world.

3 Collaborating with the public sector: The Schwab Foundation also collaborates with policy-makers and public-sector leaders to reinforce regulatory frameworks that support social innovation. By working closely with these actors, the Foundation helps create an environment where innovative solutions to social challenges can flourish, ensuring that policies are aligned with the needs of communities and the potential of social enterprises.

2 Engaging with the private sector: The Schwab Foundation's community of social entrepreneurs and innovators represents a transformative approach to business. They demonstrate that business can be a force for good, creating both social impact and economic value. Recognizing this potential, the Foundation partners with the private sector to foster collaboration and drive meaningful change. By integrating social innovation into their business models, companies can address global challenges more effectively and contribute to a more sustainable and equitable world.

4 Driving collective action on emerging themes: In a complex, rapidly changing world, no single organization can tackle systemic issues. As the field of social innovation evolves, the Schwab Foundation works with its community, its partners and the broader ecosystem to identify emerging themes that are crucial for the sector and society at large. By doing so, the Foundation works collaboratively with key partners to shape the agenda for social innovation, providing a platform for innovators to present their solutions to cutting-edge issues such as artificial intelligence (AI), innovative finance and climate adaptation. This proactive and collective approach ensures that social innovation remains relevant and effective in addressing the most pressing challenges of today.



Welcome

It is a great privilege to introduce the 2025 Schwab Foundation Awardees, a remarkable group of social entrepreneurs and innovators who embody integrity, humility and positive values in their work. This report not only highlights their extraordinary achievements but also reflects on the broader community of leading social entrepreneurs and innovators dedicated to fighting social inequalities and preserving natural ecosystems.



Hilde Schwab
Chairperson and Co-Founder,
Schwab Foundation for
Social Entrepreneurship



It is notable that support and interest in social innovation is gaining momentum.

As we face significant geopolitical, social and environmental challenges, the need for innovative solutions has never been more pressing. Our world is grappling with instability, polarization and disenfranchisement, while facing extreme unpredictable weather events and disasters, which have pushed an additional 23 million people into extreme poverty and exceeded critical planetary boundaries over the last two years.

The United Nations report on the progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals highlights stalled progress and growing inequities. Only 17% of the goals are attainable at the current rate of progress, with minimal or moderate progress on meeting half the goals. Movement towards more than a third has stalled or even regressed. The complexities we encounter are immense, which calls for greater cooperation and inclusive solutions.

In these critical times, the work of social entrepreneurs and innovators is not just relevant, it is essential. Their efforts are transforming healthcare and education, creating livelihoods for those excluded from markets and economies, and demonstrating climate action hand in hand with communities.

This year, we celebrate the 2025 awardees, whose courageous leadership exemplifies the extraordinary potential of social innovation across sectors.

It is notable that support and interest in social innovation is gaining momentum as is its practice, from policies that promote it in over 30 countries, to partnerships with business to reach impact at scale. From a global review of data from over 80 countries undertaken by the Schwab Foundation with our partners, we estimate that there are now over 10 million social enterprises globally, creating over 200 million jobs and generating over \$2 trillion in annual revenue.

Together, the community of almost 500 social entrepreneurs and innovators brought together by the Schwab Foundation has directly impacted over 931 million lives. The innovative models they employ not only revolutionize societal practices but also demonstrate that economic value creation can coexist with significant social and environmental progress.

Recent findings from our annual review reveal that these innovators have collectively raised \$1.25 billion in this past year alone, showcasing their ability to drive transformative change. By collaborating across sectors – public, private, civil society and philanthropy – they are amplifying their impact and mobilizing significant resources.

As we reflect on the achievements of our community and look forward to the future, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting these leaders. The road ahead requires continued collaboration with all sectors, continued and diversified investment, and political recognition to scale their models and amplify their impact for the benefit of all.



Credit: Sommalife, Ghana

Our community



24
Cohorts since 2001


491
Active social entrepreneurs and innovators



49
AVERAGE AGE

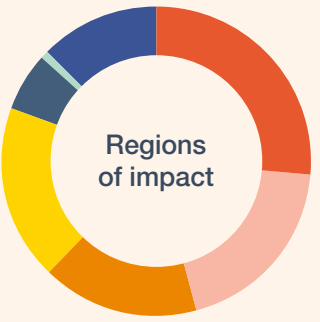
Age spread in community: **28** to **78**

There has been a notable shift in recent years to a younger demographic working in social innovation




190
COUNTRIES

Operating in 190 countries with an improved geographical spread across countries in recent cohorts




Regions of impact

Asia	26%
Europe	19%
Latin America	16%
North America	18%
Middle East and North Africa	6%
Oceania	1%
Sub-Saharan Africa	12%




52%
FEMALE

Gender parity has greatly improved over the last 5 cohorts, with latest cohort 52% female



Gender profile (2020-2025)

Male	63%
Female	37%



438
organizations

Award categories

Social entrepreneurs	26%
Corporate social innovators	19%
Public social innovators	16%
Social innovation thought leaders	18%
Collective social innovation awardees	6%



GOAL 1
No poverty

GOAL 2
Zero hunger

GOAL 3
Good health and wellbeing

GOAL 4
Quality education

GOAL 5
Gender equality

GOAL 6
Clean water and sanitation

GOAL 7
Affordable and clean energy

GOAL 8
Decent work and economic growth

GOAL 9
Industry, innovation and infrastructure

GOAL 10
Reduced inequalities

GOAL 11
Sustainable cities and communities

GOAL 12
Responsible consumption and production

GOAL 13
Climate action

GOAL 14
Life below water

GOAL 15
Life on land

GOAL 16
Peace, justice and strong institutions

GOAL 17
Partnerships for the goals

Schwab Foundation Awards 2025



The recognition by Schwab Foundation has brought us lot of credibility. It has really helped.

Khushboo Awasthi Kumari
Evangelist, Designer, Punjab Education Collective,
Collective Social Innovation Awardee 2023, India

Schwab Foundation Social Innovation Awardees
2024 at the Annual Meeting in Davos.
Credit: World Economic Forum

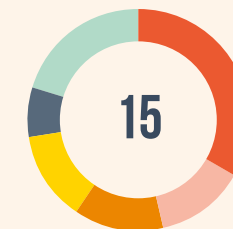
Our community of social entrepreneurs and innovators grows steadily each year through the Schwab Foundation Social Innovation Awards. Selected for their proven track record, impactful solutions and systemic approaches to addressing pressing social issues, these innovators work on different operating models in the most diverse areas of impact creation.

These exceptional leaders join a focused three-year journey before becoming life-long members, gaining continued support and access to opportunities through the network. Their affiliation with the Schwab Foundation aims to nurture and grow them as leaders as well as bolster their organizations. The programme includes access to the world's most influential networks through platforms, events, projects, capacity building activities and opportunities for collaboration and partnership across the community.

The awards not only honour the achievements of the social entrepreneurs and innovators but also amplify their influence, inspiring others to adopt and support innovative solutions for a better world. By shining the spotlight on these effective models for key decision-makers in both business and government, the Schwab Foundation fosters an environment where successful strategies can be diffused and scaled.

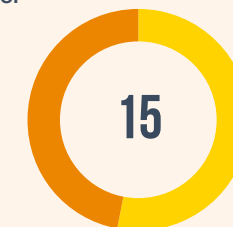
2025 cohort organizations

Impact region



● Asia	33%
● Europe	13%
● Latin America	13%
● North America	13%
● Middle East and North Africa	7%
● Sub-Saharan Africa	20%

Gender



● Male	53%
● Female	47%

Scope of work

Community health workers
Digital infrastructure for healthcare
Elderly care
Healthcare for development
Migration and entrepreneurship
Regenerative agroforestry
Socio-economic development
Women farmers

Social Entrepreneurs 2025

These are founders or chief executive officers of for-profit, hybrid or non-profit organizations (social enterprises) with the explicit mission of solving a social or environmental problem to benefit society.



Cecilia Corral

Corral is Co-Founder and Chief Strategy Officer of CareMessage, where she spearheads strategy and vision. As the subject-matter expert on the product, industry and customers, she identifies the problems to be solved, transforms them into core objectives and aligns internal teams towards achieving them. Her work is informed by her experience of growing up in a low-income immigrant family. Outside of her work at CareMessage, she is an advocate for diversity and inclusion in the tech industry, and collects and publishes data on Latina tech founders. She was on the 2019 Forbes 30 under 30 list for healthcare and graduated with a BSc in Product Design Engineering from Stanford University.

Organization: CareMessage

Headquarters: USA

Impact Region: North America

Sector: Digital communications for healthcare

SDGs: 1, 3 and 10



Credit: CareMessage, USA



Mawuse Christina Gyisun

Organization: Sommalife

Headquarters: Ghana

Impact Region: Sub Saharan Africa

Sector: Women farmers

SDGs: 1, 2, 5 and 13

As a nine-year-old, Gyisun would hustle through town, balancing water on her head, to sell at the local market. Witnessing women farmers walk 30 km to sell their wares for little to no profit, she made it her mission to work for rural development and women's empowerment in her community, in Ghana and throughout rural Africa. After studying Integrated Community Development and Development Communication, she worked at GIZ and Agriculture and Finance Consultants (AFC), gaining skills in community development, agricultural consulting, administration and leadership. In 2020, she started Sommalife, which helps tens of thousands of women farmers improve their earnings and become climate resilient.



Credit: Sommalife, Ghana



Muzalema Mwanza

Organization: Safe Motherhood Alliance

Headquarters: Zambia

Impact Region: Sub-Saharan Africa

Sector: Maternal healthcare

SDGs: 3, 5 and 8

Mwanza's own childbirth challenges inspired her to create Safe Motherhood Alliance, a social enterprise with a vision to ensure safe childbirth and prevent deadly infections among the 20 million pregnant women in Sub-Saharan Africa who lack access to maternal healthcare. With a background in executive roles at multinational companies, she pioneers solutions that blend profit with purpose. Mwanza was the winner of Pitch@Palace Africa in 2019, which recognizes and accelerates the work of entrepreneurs. She was a Mandela Washington Fellow in 2017, an Obama Leaders: Africa Fellow and Ashoka Fellow in 2019, and an Echoing Green Fellow in 2020.



Valmir Gabriel Ortega

Organization: Belterra Agroflorestas

Headquarters: Brazil

Impact Region: Latin America

Sector: Regenerative agroforestry

SDGs: 1, 8, 13 and 15

Ortega is Founder and Executive Director of Belterra Agrofloresta, which restores degraded land through agroforestry. Its partnerships offer 10-20 years' leases to ensure a sustainable transition in land use, providing technical assistance, access to capital and market access. It replaces monoculture, deforestation and livestock farming with the combined cultivation of forests and products such as cocoa, cassava and açai, impacting 40,000 hectares in six states in Brazil. Born into a farming family, Ortega earned a degree in geography, specialized in environmental conservation and then worked in government. Since 2017, he has worked in research and applied solutions for regenerative models.



Manuel Rosemberg

Organization: ANA Care

Headquarters: Mexico

Impact Region: Latin America

Sector: Elderly care

SDGs: 3, 5 and 8

Rosemberg is Co-Founder and CEO of ANA Care, an AI-driven management platform that assists the caregivers of the elderly. It currently operates in Mexico City and aims to expand nationally. Its concept of "extended circle of care" promotes coordinated family care rather than the services of one caregiver. Rosemberg is a serial entrepreneur interested in leveraging technologies for social impact. He founded Paz Mental, the project that won the MAPFRE Foundation Award for Social Innovation in 2021 in the health and digital technology category. He was selected for the Norrsken Accelerator 2022.



Aline Sara

Organization: NaTakallam

Headquarters: Lebanon

Impact Region: Middle East and North Africa

Sector: Migration and entrepreneurship development

SDGs: 8, 10 and 17

Sara is Co-Founder and CEO of NaTakallam. With a background in journalism and human rights, she is working to disrupt the typical thinking about humanitarian aid and to leverage the digital economy to promote sustainable solutions to major crises such as forced migration. In 2015, affected by the plight of over 1 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon and her desire to speak Arabic, Sara founded NaTakallam to hire refugees as online tutors. She is a Cartier Women's Initiative Fellow and a Halcyon Fellow. Named Woman Entrepreneur of the Year at the Elle Impact Awards, she won the World Bank Youth Summit Competition in 2016 and the MIT Inclusive Innovation Challenge (Asia).



Akshay Saxena

Organization: Avanti Fellows

Headquarters: India

Impact Region: Asia

Sector: Education

SDGs: 4 and 10

Saxena co-founded Avanti Fellows in 2010 with the mission of providing equitable access to India's top STEM colleges. Avanti runs India's largest free test-preparation programme, reaching over 55,000 students. Nearly 70% of its students pursue technical education and 18% place in India's top 5% STEM colleges. Saxena graduated from IIT Bombay in 2006 with a degree in Chemical Engineering, and went on to win the IIT Bombay Young Alumni Achiever Award in 2023. He was part of the founding team of HeartFlow, a medical diagnostics company that raised over \$600 million from top venture funds. He is an Ashoka Fellow, a Draper Richards Kaplan Fellow and an Echoing Green Fellow.



Vineet Singal

Organization: CareMessage

Headquarters: USA

Impact Region: North America

Sector: Digital communications for healthcare

SDGs: 1, 3 and 10

Singal is Co-Founder and CEO of CareMessage, which uses mobile tech to boost healthcare access. He co-founded CareMessage in 2012 after facing health issues and volunteering at safety-net clinics as a pre-med student. He also led a campaign to register 115,000 bone-marrow donors from under-represented communities. Singal graduated with distinction from Stanford, having served as a student representative on the Stanford Board of Trustees and receiving the President's Call to Service Award. An Echoing Green Fellow, a DRK Foundation Fellow and a Y Combinator alumnus, he won the Hitachi Foundation's Young Entrepreneurs Award and the Wharton Business School's Beacon Awards on Leadership.



Credit: CareMessage, USA

Corporate Social Innovators 2025

Leaders in a multinational or regional company who drive the development of new products, services or business models that address societal and environmental challenges to benefit low-income or vulnerable populations.



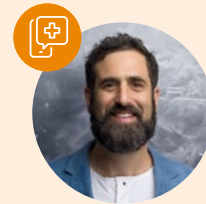
Caitlyn (Juhong) Chen

Organization: Tencent
Headquarters: People's Republic of China
Impact Region: Asia
Sector: Healthcare and social inclusion
SDGs: 3, 11, 13 and 17

Chen is Vice-President and Head of Sustainable Social Value (SSV) at Tencent. Since joining Tencent in 2006, she has been pivotal to the company's online media business, including Tencent News and Tencent Sports. Appointed as the head of Tencent SSV in April 2021, she leads the company's strategic initiatives in sustainable social value innovations. Prior to Tencent, Chen was director of news and features at Southern Weekend and editor-in-chief at South Reviews. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from Wuhan University, an Executive MBA from the China Europe International Business School and has been a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University.



Credit: Tencent, People's Republic of China



Fred Hersch

Organization: Google Health
Headquarters: Singapore
Impact Region: Global
Sector: Digital infrastructure for healthcare
SDGs: 3, 10 and 17

Hersch works at Google Health on translational AI research and data-driven digital transformation to promote health equity. A medical doctor with training in business and information technology, Hersch developed one of the first web-based telemedicine platforms globally (MedTech Outreach Australia). Prior to Google, he was Chief Medical Officer and Clinical Product Manager for Telenor Health, James Martin Fellow in Healthcare Innovation at Oxford University and a medical doctor. Having joined Google's HealthAI Research team in 2018, he is the Product Lead for Open Health Stack, a suite of open-source components that enable developers to build AI-powered next-gen digital health solutions.



Eric Cioè-Peña

Organization: Northwell Health
Headquarters: USA
Impact Region: Global
Sector: Healthcare
SDGs: 3, 10 and 17

Cioè-Peña is founder of the Center for Global Health at Northwell Health, where he leads global stakeholder-led projects on access to mental healthcare, surgery and technology. He is a graduate of the SUNY Downstate Emergency Medicine Residency programme and a Columbia University International Emergency Medicine Fellow. He received a Master's in Public Health and Humanitarian Assistance from the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and a Doctor of Medicine in Global Health from the University of Pennsylvania. He has worked in Ecuador, Guyana, India, Ukraine, Botswana, Dominican Republic and El Salvador on health systems development, trauma care and humanitarian assistance.



Credit: Northwell Health, USA

Public Social Innovators 2025

Government leaders or leaders in international organizations who experiment with ways to harness the power of social innovation to create public good through appropriate policy and regulatory tools.



Credit: Agency for Enterprise Development, Ministry of Planning and Investment of Viet Nam



Islam Alijaj

Organization: Parliament of Switzerland and Tatkraft

Headquarters: Switzerland

Impact Region: Europe

Sector: People with disabilities

SDGs: 3, 8 and 10

Alijaj is a disability activist and politician who has been a member of the National Council for the Swiss Parliament since 2023. Previously, he served in the Zurich city parliament. He has been politically and entrepreneurially involved in the disability sector throughout his career. He is Founder and President of Tatkraft, an association of and for people with disabilities who strive to live independently and actively shape society. Alijaj has cerebral palsy. He attended a school for individuals with special needs before undertaking a commercial apprenticeship. He holds a Business Analyst diploma from SGO Business School and a certificate in web publishing from EB Zürich.



Credit: Tatkraft, Switzerland



Trinh Thi Huong

Organization: Agency for Enterprise Development, Ministry of Planning and Investment of Viet Nam

Headquarters: Viet Nam

Impact Region: Asia

Sector: Socio-economic development

SDGs: 1 and 17

Huong has worked as a policy-maker in enterprise development for 20 years, focusing on small and medium enterprises (SMEs). She is now Deputy Director General of the Agency for Enterprise Development under the Ministry of Planning and Investment of Viet Nam, in charge of creating an enabling investment environment, fostering the private sector as well as international cooperation on micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). She has contributed to many legal frameworks and pioneering policy initiatives, and has consistently supported women’s entrepreneurship, women-led MSMEs, inclusive and sustainable businesses, ESG innovation and digital transformation in the private sector.

Collective Social Innovators 2025

Cross-sector leaders who lead or facilitate a group or network of organizations. They address a bigger problem than what an individual organization can take on, towards social inequalities and vulnerable ecosystems.



Credit: Community Health Impact Coalition



Abraham Baffoe

Organization: Africa Sustainable Commodities Initiative (ASCI)

Headquarters: Ghana

Impact Region: Sub-Saharan Africa

Sector: Sustainable agriculture and smallholder farmers

SDGs: 1, 2, 8, 15 and 17

Baffoe is Executive Director, Global and Africa at Proforest, which focuses on agricultural and forestry production and sourcing that is people-, nature- and climate-positive. Part of the team leading ASCI since its inception 10 years ago, he leads projects and programmes in Africa, supporting the public and private sectors with sustainability policies. With an MSc in Forestry and Environmental Policy from Louisiana State University, he has over two decades' experience in natural resource management and providing technical support to sustainability certification standard-setting and implementation. He also sits on the Steering Committee of the Tropical Forest Alliance.



Africa Sustainable Commodities Initiative, Ghana



Madeleine Ballard

Organization: Community Health Impact Coalition (CHIC)

Headquarters: United Kingdom

Impact Region: Global

Sector: Community health workers

SDGs: 3, 5, 8 and 17

Ballard is CEO of CHIC. Through research, advocacy and coordination with community health workers (CHWs), she has driven policy changes that ensure quality care for millions, including those who provide it. As founding Programme Manager at Last Mile Health, she collaborated with CHWs in remote villages to ensure universal access to healthcare before the 2014 Ebola outbreak, helping create Liberia's first national CHW programme. A Rhodes Scholar and Harvard Women's Leadership Award winner, Ballard co-chairs the Anti-Racism Task Force at the Arnhold Institute for Global Health. She was among 20 global experts selected to review the World Health Organization's first guidance on CHW programmes.



Ved Mitra Arya

Organization: Responsible Coalition for Resilient Communities (RCRC)

Headquarters: India

Impact Region: Asia

Sector: Rural development and migration

SDGs: 1, 2, 5 and 17

Arya is founder of RCRC, Buddha Institute and SRIJAN. RCRC is creating a platform for civil society to engage with multiple stakeholders to promote an inclusive, equitable and just future for the marginalized. It has 98 members in 15 states of India, serving 16 million people. Buddha Institute's fellowship nurtures development enterprises into million-dollar businesses through repayable grants, mentorship and access to capital. Its 46 entrepreneurs have created 2,000 jobs and impacted half a million people. SRIJAN promotes women's empowerment through self-help groups, and has reached 250,000 rural poor in six states. In 2020, Arya received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from IIT Kanpur.



Poonam Muttreja

Organization: Responsible Coalition for Resilient Communities (RCRC)

Headquarters: India

Impact Region: Asia

Sector: Rural development and migration

SDGs: 1, 2, 5 and 17

Executive Director at Population Foundation of India, Muttreja has worked for women's empowerment, reproductive justice and rural livelihoods for 40 years. She co-conceived a popular media initiative, Main Kuch Bhi Kar Sakti Hoon (I, a woman, can achieve anything), inspiring millions to challenge gender norms. She was India Country Director at the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for 15 years and co-founded the Ashoka (India) Foundation, Dastkar (an NGO for craftspeople) and the Society for Rural, Urban and Tribal Initiatives. Muttreja is on the Governing Council and Board of ActionAid International and India. She is an alumna of Delhi University and Harvard Kennedy School.



Apoorva Oza

Organization: Responsible Coalition for Resilient Communities (RCRC)

Headquarters: India

Impact Region: Asia

Sector: Rural development and migration

SDGs: 1, 2, 5 and 17

Oza is Global Lead, Agriculture and Climate, at the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), a member of RCRC. He provides technical support and long-term strategic thinking to the many countries where AKF operates. He was previously CEO of the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India) for over 20 years, and transformed its focus from community-based natural resource management to improving people's quality of life through access to water and sanitation, employability and enterprise for rural youth, local self-governance, nutrition and climate resilience. Oza graduated in Engineering and has a Post-Graduate Diploma in Rural Management from the Institute of Rural Management, Anand.



Being part of the Schwab network was the first time I was able to interact with my actual peers. That was tremendous.

Jim Fruchterman

Founder and CEO, Tech Matters, Social Entrepreneur 2002, USA

Publication insights

As the field of social innovation evolves, the Schwab Foundation works collaboratively with its community, partners and the broader ecosystem in the foundation's Global Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship to identify emerging themes arising in the social sector and on the global agenda. This work provides social entrepreneurs and innovators with a platform

to present solutions on cutting-edge issues, influencing the agenda of stakeholders, while highlighting that social innovation remains a highly effective tool in addressing the most pressing challenges of our time. We invite you to discover the insights that have emerged from the work we published during the past year.



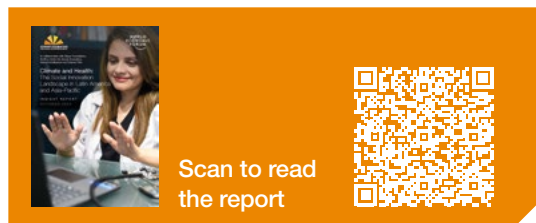
Credit: Nutrivida

Social innovation at intersection of climate and health

Inclusive health, sustainable agriculture and climate change are interconnected, requiring collective action for sustainability and justice. During the Annual Meeting 2024, the Schwab Foundation, in partnership with Bayer Foundation, Bertha Centre for Social Innovation, Impact Hub and Impact Intelligence, published an open dataset based on 2.5 million data points from Latin America and the Asia-Pacific, highlighting the role of social innovation at the intersection of climate change, food systems and inclusive healthcare. The dataset enables impact investors and other stakeholders to identify geographies where issue areas ripe for social innovation lack investment – from access to water and sanitation to food security.

play a crucial role in addressing the complex relationship between inclusive health, sustainable agriculture and climate change. Their efforts foster partnerships and collaboration to develop ecologically sustainable, economically efficient and socially just environments. This insight report, which explores the social innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems in Latin America and the Asia-Pacific, highlights opportunities for private-sector investment and outlines how governments can support these efforts through policies and regulations that protect displaced and vulnerable populations.

The report launched by the Foundation at the World Health Summit 2024 underscores its commitment to mobilizing funders for social innovation in climate and health – priority areas for 2025. Social entrepreneurs and innovators



AI for Social Impact

During the 2023 Schwab Foundation Summit, a diverse group of social entrepreneurs and innovators highlighted their enthusiasm and concerns about the potential impact of AI on their work and the social innovation sector at large. Based on these discussions, the Schwab Foundation launched the AI for Social Innovation initiative in October 2023 with the support of Microsoft and contributions from EY.

The initiative is a collaborative project between social entrepreneurs and innovators, intermediaries and leading global companies such as Microsoft, EY and SAP with the overarching objectives to increase awareness and promote the ethical adoption of AI by social entrepreneurs and innovators. As part of its core activities, the initiative encourages dialogue between technology leaders and social entrepreneurs and innovators to inform the future development of AI, mobilizes resources for the impactful application of AI for impact and builds capacity in the social innovation ecosystem.

As part of its work, the initiative launched a series of reports in 2024. The first report presented a global landscape study based on a dataset of 300 social entrepreneurs and innovators, providing insights into how, where and in what impact areas social entrepreneurs and innovators are currently using AI. The second report introduced the “PRISM Framework,” which draws on the lived experiences and best practices of ecosystem organizations

and social innovators to present a structured pathway through which social entrepreneurs and innovators can access and deploy the technology on their AI journey. The framework provides pathways for social entrepreneurs and innovators to adopt AI for their own organizations, while protecting their impact mission and addressing ethical considerations. Since its release in June 2024, the report's insights have reached more than 58,000 social media users around the world.

The third report in the series, published in September 2024, explored the landscape of private, public and ecosystem support and collaboration around AI for impact. Based on research, surveys and expert interviews, this report highlights the gap in financial and non-financial resources available to social entrepreneurs and innovators and other impact enterprises using AI. It also prescribes recommendations and success factors for leading technology companies and other ecosystem players to scale their support for responsible and impactful AI applications.

Following this report series, the Schwab Foundation team is now focusing on resource mobilization in support of social entrepreneurs and innovators and enabling a dialogue between social entrepreneurs and innovators and technology leaders through a series that launched in November 2024 and runs into the first half of 2025.

Scan to read the reports



The state of social enterprise

Global data suggests over 10 million enterprises put purpose before profit, tackling pressing issues like climate change and poverty. These social enterprises account for \$2 trillion in annual turnover, creating 200 million jobs.

There is a significant lack of consistent data for the social enterprise sector, which constricts further uptake of policy action and stronger engagement from the private sector. In 2024, the Schwab Foundation invested in strengthening the data landscape of social enterprises through its Working Group on Social Economy Policy and various ecosystem partners. A six-month research project led to a report, "The State of Social Enterprise: A Review of Global Data 2013-2023".

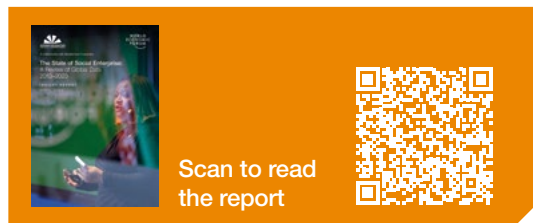
The report provides a comprehensive synthesis of the global state of social enterprise, using data from more than 80 countries gathered between 2013 and 2023. It aims to inform policy-makers and business leaders about the under-estimated contribution of social enterprise towards global GDP, employment and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The global data gathered for this report indicates that there are approximately 10 million social enterprises across the world, generating around \$2 trillion in revenue each year and creating nearly 200 million jobs. Social enterprises are also bridging the gender gap, with one in two social enterprises worldwide

led by women, compared to one in five for conventional enterprises.

In addition to uncovering important insights, this report reveals gaps and challenges in social enterprise data. These include the availability and quality of data, the comparability of the available data and the difficulty of quantifying social and environmental value creation. Addressing these challenges will be critical to gaining a clearer understanding of the state of social enterprise globally.

Following the publication of the report, the Schwab Foundation is engaging with ecosystem actors, the academia and public-sector actors to further strengthen efforts for gathering data on social enterprises, with the goal of contributing to consistent, regularly updated data on social innovation worldwide.



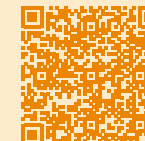
Financing social outcomes

As of 2022, social impact bonds had facilitated the allocation of over \$460 million towards a myriad of initiatives based on the impact they had achieved, providing novel financing for social entrepreneurs and innovators and other sector organizations linked to outcomes. While the merits of outcome-based financing (OBF) are evident, its full-scale implementation and universal adoption encounter challenges. In 2024, the Schwab Foundation launched a research project to highlight avenues for scaling outcome-based funding, specifically by mobilizing the private sector. The project is funded and supported by the Center for Social Value Enhancement Studies, the corporate foundation of the South Korean SK Group.

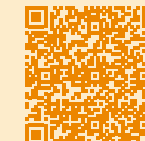
The initiative explores the 10-year horizon in this space by highlighting innovative concepts for assigning economic value to impact or making impact outcomes tradeable (and thereby, more fungible for investors). By the Annual Meeting in Davos in January 2025, this project is set to provide an analysis of existing OBF mechanisms that lend themselves to private-sector mobilization. It will also publish a white paper on new paradigm shifts to attribute value to social and environmental impact, including concepts such as impact currencies and carbon assets. Since the project's launch, more than 100 leading organizations in outcome-based funding and tradeable impact outcomes have signed up to join its advisory group. The Foundation has secured the support of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors to deliver this project.

Discover

Circular Solutions, Community Revolutions: The Social Impact of Circularity:



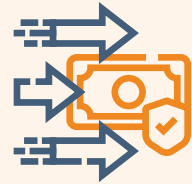
Grassroots to Boardrooms: Social Innovation Partnerships for Climate Adaptation:



Innovating for Equity: Unlocking Value for Communities and Businesses:

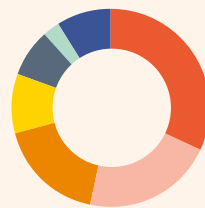


Revealing the impact across the community



\$1.25 BILLION

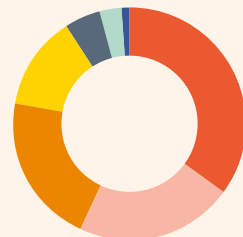
mobilized in the past year by annual survey respondents



Grants from philanthropic organizations	33%
Earned revenue	22%
Debt/loans	18%
Grants from the private sector	10%
Equity investments	8%
Public funding	3%
Others	9%

\$28 MILLION

financial equivalent of in-kind resources mobilized during the past year



Pro-bono services	35%
Technological support	22%
Volunteering	21%
Land and infrastructure	13%
In-kind from the public sector	5%
Vehicles and materials	3%
Others	1%

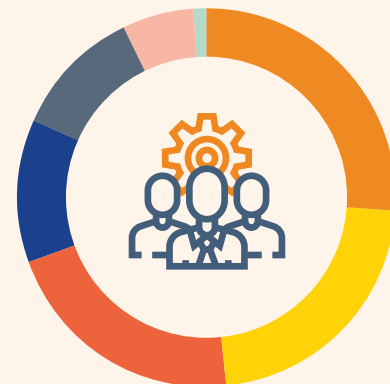
931 MILLION

lives directly impacted by community of social innovators



Collaboration stakeholders

Private sector	26%
Civil sector	22%
Public society	21%
Philanthropic	12%
Knowledge organizations	11%
International organizations	6%
Development organizations	1%



Across our three most recent cohorts (2023-2025)

\$330 MILLION

in financial resources mobilized by the past 3 cohorts

56%	through earned income
34%	through grants
10%	from government funding

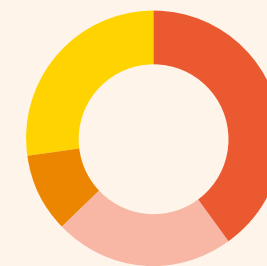


GENERATING 15,000

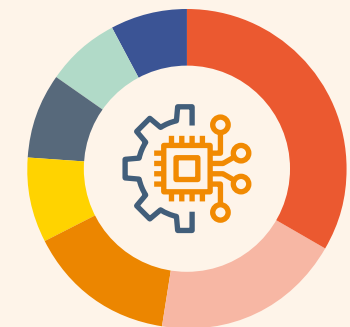
full- or part-time jobs

Operating models

For profit	40%
Not for profit	23%
Hybrid	10%
Collectives	27%



Main technologies they use



Mobile technology	31%
AI and machine learning	18%
Automation	14%
Internet of things (IoT)	8%
Digital platforms for community management	8%
Data analytics	7%
Others (drones, blockchain, 3D printing):	7%

Looking ahead



François Bonnici
Director, Schwab Foundation
for Social Entrepreneurship;
Head of Foundations, World Economic Forum

In this report, we recognize that the people- and planet-centred models developed by social entrepreneurs and innovators serve as a blueprint for a better world. They have demonstrated that more equitable and sustainable approaches can work for all and that these can form a significant part of the critical pathways towards an inclusive transition.

Over these past few decades, social innovation has moved from the margins towards the mainstream. Our latest report, “The State of Social Enterprise 2024,” documents the existence of 10 million social enterprises across the world, generating around \$2 trillion in revenue each year and creating nearly 200 million

jobs. There is also growing evidence that they bridge the gender gap, with one in two social enterprises worldwide led by women.

We also see social entrepreneurs and innovators serving as lighthouse examples of approaches to key issues of our time – in driving climate adaptation, in advancing all forms of equity in society and the economy, and in the positive use of AI for impact, all highlighted in our recent reports.

social entrepreneurs and innovators are also leading a shift to leave behind top-down and single organizational approaches, creating platforms that mobilize key actors and

The state of social enterprise 2024



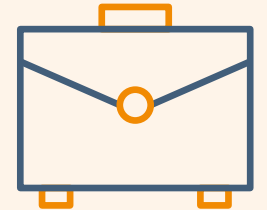
10 MILLION

social enterprises globally, united by the principle of putting purpose before profit.



\$2 TRILLION

in annual revenue generated by social enterprises each year while creating positive impact.



200 MILLION

jobs created by social enterprises across various sectors, from agriculture to financial services.

empower citizens and local groups with agency and decision-making powers to effect their own change.

The time has now passed when social entrepreneurs and innovators worked in isolation to fill the gaps in markets and the public sector. It is clear that no one organization or individual can achieve significant social change alone. For some time now, social entrepreneurs and innovators have been building collective efforts to achieve inclusive, lasting and equitable social change. That is why the Schwab Foundation recognizes systemic approaches in all its awardees, and also recognizes the work of organizations coming together to address complex problems and common goals through collective action.

It is crucial right now that the conditions for encouraging social innovation through people- and planet-centred business models start to improve, with greater recognition and investment. Many social entrepreneurs and innovators now demonstrate a strong willingness and need

to partner with business and government to scale their impact and shift systems. We will continue our efforts in building platforms for them to engage with private- and public-sector leadership through the Corporate Leadership Council and Policy Leadership Council, hosted by the Schwab Foundation.

Emboldened by the momentum and increased engagement, we will continue to advance the priorities that enable the work of social innovators, along with our private and public sectors partners, will continue to advance the priorities that enable the work of social entrepreneurs and innovators.

Alongside the World Economic Forum, we recognize that our platform presents a valuable opportunity to promote the adoption, mainstreaming and integration of proven social innovations into larger systems. We are committed to working towards equitable societies on a sustainable planet, and we invite you to join us in this shared future.



Report methodology

For this report, we collected and analysed data from a variety of sources, ensuring we heard from a representative sample of our community and gaining valuable insights into the collective progress of the wider community. The data collected consisted of:

109

social entrepreneurs and innovators from across the world completed our community's annual survey

63

awardees from the three most recent cohorts contributed data through the award application process

438

demographic and operational data points from across the entire community, such as gender and age

Acknowledgements

The Schwab Foundation recognizes the incredible group of social entrepreneurs and innovators in our community, along with their teams, for all their pioneering work around the world, their support for each other and the Foundation, and their persistence and progress in the service of others and the planet.

We would like to thank the Schwab Foundation Board, which has steered the organization over the years, and our partners who support the Foundation, in particular Bayer Foundation, Bertelsmann Foundation, Deloitte, EY, Frey Charitable Foundation, GHR Foundation,

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Responsible Coalition for Resilient Communities

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Company

Paraguay
Martin Burt
Poverty Stoplight

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China**
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Tencent Holdings

Peru
Anna Zucchetti
Periferia Ciudad Viva

Philippines
Therese Fernandez-Ruiz
Intentionality

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Sierra Leone
Alexandre Tourre
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Singapore
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**WORLD
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91-93 route de la Capite
CH-1223 Cologny/Geneva
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 869 1212
Fax: +41 (0) 22 786 2744

socialinnovators@weforum.org
www.schwabfound.org

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2nd January - 14th January

Chief Guest
Smt. Reena Gu
Advisor, Delhi Government

